



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

Walla Walla District
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Corps postpones plans for winter dredging

Walla Walla, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has postponed dredging that was being planned for the winter of 2003-2004 in the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers, Walla Walla District officials announced today.

Earlier this year, the Corps presented updated dredging plans in an environmental compliance document issued in July and invited public comment throughout August.

“We’re deferring this dredging while we consider ways to address the current status of the navigation system and the letters we received during the public comment period,” said Jack Sands, project manager.

Several factors led to the Corps’ decision to forego soliciting bids on a dredging contract for this winter. For example, the Corps found that there was not enough time to complete the administrative steps of the federal contracting process before the start of the in-water work window. Also, deferring Corps dredging plans will allow the agency to consider modifying the list of proposed dredging sites. The additional time will also allow the Corps to consider navigation industry concerns and environmental compliance reviews. The next available in-water work window will be in the winter of 2004-2005.

“If the Corps develops additional documents or information about dredging impacts, these will be made available to the public before any dredging begins,” said Sands.

For more information, contact Jack Sands at (509) 527-7287.

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